

REMARKS

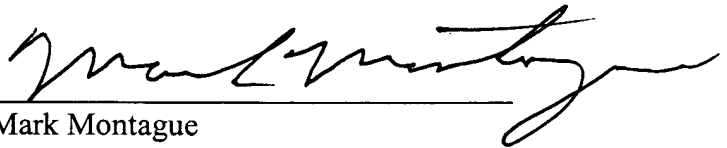
In light of the above amendatory matter and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement, since it recited a negative limitation for which there was no explicit support in the specification. The language rejected to was removed from claim 9. Furthermore, the word “comprising” has been replaced with “consisting of,” which is supported by the description in the specification. Since the prior art previously relied upon by the Examiner requires the use of a cross-linking agent, which is not included within the group of elements recited in claim 9, the invention as recited in claim 9 is patentably distinct from the prior art. It is requested that the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claim 8 was deemed allowable over the prior art of record. Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s finding that claim 8 recites allowable subject matter.

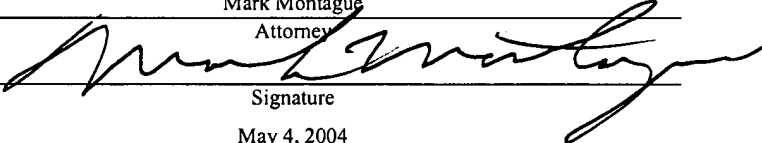
In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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